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MEDLARS Expansion Under Way

Dr. Martin M. Cummings, NLM Director, reported on progress toward expansion of MEDLARS (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System), and discussed the award of a $54,070 contract to the Auerbach Corporation of Philadelphia. The contract calls for a systems study aimed at determining specifications for enhancing and extending the effectiveness of MEDLARS.

"After 2-1/2 years of successful operation, we are planning for the development of a second generation of computer equipment designed to provide further automation of NLM services," Dr. Cummings said.

"The continuing information explosion in the biomedical sciences and the increasing need for improved communications among all members of the biomedical community is a major concern of the Public Health Service.

"As a central resource for the Nation's health science libraries, the NLM is actively engaged in helping to develop the existing library system into a biomedical communications network.

"Under the MEDLARS project contract, the Auerbach Corporation will investigate new areas for applying the computer's capability."

The study will include: mechanization of the Library's card catalog and serial records; feasibility of on-line indexing and citation input; development of a drug information module; and storage and retrieval of graphic images. The study will also entail analysis of requirements for future decentralization of MEDLARS.

Library Accelerates Microfilming

NLM's paper preservation program has been stepped up by a $32,990 contract with Microcard Corporation of West Salem, Wisconsin. Approximately one million pages will be microfilmed by Microcard's Bethesda, Maryland, Service Center, supplementing the nearly two million pages a year being microfilmed by the Library's own in-house photoduplication plant.

Earlier this year a contract was awarded to University Microfilms, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan, to preserve an additional one million pages. (*NLM News*, May 1966.)

NLM's plan calls for preservation of an estimated 37 million pages from its collection.

NLM Indexer Wins Award

In a ceremony at the Library on August 19, NLM Director Martin M. Cummings, M.D., presented a cash award for special service to Mrs. Thelma G. Charen, Medical Literature Analyst, Bibliographic Services Division.

Mrs. Charen and Dr. Cummings

Mrs. Charen received the award for preparing the *Indexing Manual* which now serves indexers, catalogers, and users of *Index Medicus* and MEDLARS. She first compiled a 164-page edition issued in 1964, to which she devoted over 500 hours of her own time.

The 1966 edition contains 299 pages, and Mrs. Charen again donated over 400 hours of personal time to its preparation. In the words of the recommendation for her award, "The manual is now an indispensable reference tool. Its value will grow with the expansion of regional centers and outside indexing contracts. Mrs. Charen's work on the manual ... demonstrates her enthusiasm, interest, and initiative in her career at the National Library of Medicine."

Mrs. Charen joined the Library in 1945; in her present assignment, she trains new indexers, revises junior indexers' work, and recommends indexing policy rules.

Prints Librarian Contributes to Visual Medicine

A new quarterly journal, *Visual Medicine*, which first appeared in March 1966, contains a regular section by Ellen Wells, Prints Librarian in NLM's History of Medicine Division. The one-page feature comprises a photograph of an outstanding or especially interested item in the HMD Prints and Photographs Collection, with accompanying text by Miss Wells.

Subjects so far have been "t'Gevoel," a toothpulling scene which is part of a 17th-century allegorical series on the five senses; and "Medieval Therapy," an engraving believed to portray the annual dancing procession of epileptic and other patients seeking miraculous cures in the town of Epternach, Luxembourg (illustrated at right).

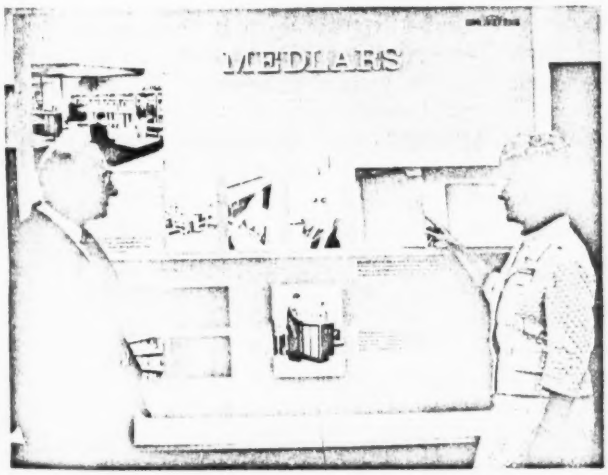
The September issue of *Visual Medicine* features a frontispiece photograph of NLM and Miss Wells' article, "The Pictorial Resources of the National Library of Medicine," in addition to her regular page ("Petrarch on Pain in the Leg").

Miss Wells is Chairman of the newly-formed History of Medicine Group of the Medical Library Association.

Dental Group Attends NLM Symposium

Dentists representing the Armed Forces, Veterans Administration, and Public Health Service participated in a 2-day (August 29-30) symposium for dental practitioners and researchers on the use of medical libraries. NLM staff led discussions and Donald Washburn, D.D.S., of the American Dental Association spoke on use of reference tools. (Left, NLM Deputy Director Scott Adams; Center, some of the 24 participants; Right, Dr. Washburn)

NLM to Exhibit at Major Meetings



Mr. Daniel Carangi, NLM Graphics Chief, shows a new MEDLARS display, one of five exhibits depicting the Library's programs, to Mrs. Hilda Fried, the Library's Tour Coordinator. Other units, now being completed, will highlight the History and Mission of NLM, Interlibrary Loan, History of Medicine, and NLM Extramural Programs.

As part of an expanded exhibits program designed to bring the services of the Library to the attention of the health professions, NLM will participate in several major scientific meetings. A new modular exhibit illustrating NLM activities in biomedical communications will debut October 3-7 before the American Documentation Institute in Santa Monica. The exhibit is also being scheduled for presentation to the American Public Health Association, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, the Medical Library Association, and others.

NLM Summer Employees Meet with Director

Dr. Cummings meets informally with students who worked for NLM during this summer.

Since June, fifteen university undergraduates and one high school student have been working at NLM in a variety of assignments. After a recent meeting with the group, Dr. Cummings said: "I am particularly impressed with the high caliber of summer employees. These young people are extremely bright. They impressed me with their knowledge of NLM programs and their understanding of our mission. One young man, a high school student who worked as a mail clerk, remarked that he had discovered a whole new world in medical books and indicated that he has been inspired to consider a career in some medical-related field."

NLM PROGRAM REPORT NO. 2 - Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Gluckstein

by Fritz Gluckstein, D.V.M.
Coordinator for Veterinary Affairs

The Library's collection includes some 1,500 volumes on veterinary medicine. Approximately 2,500 more must be acquired. The Library is now receiving 134 journals out of a total of about 350 being published in this field and plans to increase its journal holdings. Many periodicals and reference works in veterinary medicine are available on open shelves in the Reading Room.

Definition of scope and coverage in the field of veterinary medicine presents a problem. There are no strict divisions between veterinary medicine, animal husbandry, and zoology. Compounding the problem, many works have misleading titles, and some important articles are buried in agricultural and agronomy journals.

A plan to have NLM collect theses in veterinary medicine on a world-wide basis is being developed. A descriptive list of theses would be published periodically.

One of the greatest deterrents to the development of an expanded veterinary medicine program is the lack of an adequate vocabulary. A technical committee is being established to help develop medical subject headings in veterinary medicine. It will be composed of three veterinarians appointed by the National Agricultural Library, three by NLM, and one by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Other items:

(1) The Library is recruiting a veterinarian interested in indexing and searching;

(2) Phone requests for reference information on veterinary medicine are increasing;

(3) A study is being made of interlibrary loan requests to determine who is requesting veterinary medical information and what types of requests pose problems for the Library.

Future NLM publications may include:

(1) A recurring bibliography in laboratory animal medicine;

(2) A guide to veterinary literature;

(3) A catalog of veterinary periodicals which would report the average number of articles and the types of reviews in each.

(4) A bibliography of the history of veterinary medicine.

Publications Offered

A limited quantity of the NLM publications listed below is available on request to the Assistant to the Director, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

Bibliographies

Bibliography of military psychiatry, 1947-1952. 1953. 39 p.

Bibliography of military psychiatry, 1952-1958. 1959. 83 p.

Bibliography on smoking and health, 1958-1963. 1963. 59 p.

Bibliography on smoking and health. Supplement, 1963-1964. 1965. 29 p.

Biological effects of non-ionizing radiation... 1916-1959. 1960. 18 p.

Biomedical serials, 1950-1960. 1962. 503 p.

Fungus infections, 1952-1958. 1959. 90 p.

Gas gangrene and gas gangrene organisms, 1940-1952. 1953. 73 p.

Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office.
4th Series, 1936-1955, 11 vols.
5th Series, 1959-1961, 3 vols.

Index Medicus. Monthly issues for Vols. 4-6, 1963-1965.

Leptospirosis, 1957-1959. 1959. 39 p.

Military medicine. 1955. 938 p. (Reprinted from Index-Catalogue, 4th Series)

Notable contributions to medical research by PHS scientists. 1960. 96 p.
(A biobibliography to 1940; PHS Pub. No. 752)

Pathology and physiology of burns, 1942-1951. 1952. 107 p. (Annotated)

Physiologic involution in normal aging man, 1956-1960. 1960. 29 p. (Annotated)

Pituitary-adrenocortical function, 1940-1950. 366 p. (Annotated)

Plasma substitutes, 1940-1951. 1951. 141 p. (Annotated)

Psychopharmaca, 1952-1957. 1958. 258 p. (PHS Pub. No. 581)

Pulmonary mycotic infections... 1957-1961. 1961. 28 p.

Russian surgical staplers. 1961. 41 p. (Annotated)
(PHS Pub.)

Salmonella; salmonella infections, 1955-1960. 1960. 40 p.
(PHS Pub.)

Staphylococcal infection Supplement, 1958-1959. 1959. 29 p.

Structure, composition, and growth of bone, 1930-1953. 1955. 190 p.
(Annotated

Toxoplasmosis, 1956-1960. 1960. 15 p.

Reprints

Abbreviations for medical journal titles. (Bull. Med. Libr. Ass., July 1962)

Bibliographic aspects of MEDLARS (Bull. Med. Libr. Ass., January 1964)

Medical dictionaries and studies of terminology. (Bull. Med. Libr. Ass., July 1961)

Memoir of Robert Fletcher. (Bull. Med. Libr. Ass., July 1961)

National Library of Medicine (Library Quarterly, Nos. 1 and 2, 1958)

National medical bibliographies. (Bull. Med. Libr. Ass., July 1961)

Physicians to the Presidents, and their patients... (Bull. Med. Libr. Ass., July 1961)

Program for developing medical libraries. (Report of the President's Commission on Heart Disease, Cancer, and Stroke, Vol. II, February 1965)

Miscellaneous

A national program to conquer heart disease, cancer and stroke.
Vol. I, December 1964. 114 p.
Vol. II, February 1965. 644 p.
Color atlas of pathology. Lippincott, 1950. 546 p.
Directory of medical libraries outside the U.S. and Canada. 1963. 77 p.
Early American medical imprints, 1668-1820. 1961. 240 p.
The nature and magnitude of the drug literature. 1963. 62 p.
Second International Congress on Medical Librarianship... Abstracts of Papers Submitted. 1963. 127 p. (Excerpta Medica Foundation International Congress Series, No. 56)

Publications Wanted

The National Library of Medicine would be pleased to receive copies, in good condition, of the publications listed below. Please address shipments to the Assistant to the Director.

Current List of Medical Literature
Weekly issues, 1941-1950, Vols. 1-18
Monthly issues, 1950-1959, Vols. 19-36

Cumulated Index Medicus
Vol. 1, 1960
Vol. 2, 1961
Vol. 3, 1962
Vol. 5, 1964

Bibliography of Medical Reviews
Vol. 9, 1964

Copies of monthly issues of Index Medicus are not needed.

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NEWS

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- MEDLARS EXPANSION
- INDEXER WINS AWARD
- NEW NLM EXHIBIT PROGRAM
- PUBLICATIONS OFFERED

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